

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY BONN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 190174

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN, BE, US

SUBJECT: 31ST UNGA: BELGIAN DEMARCHE ON KOREAN CORE GROUP

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 7276 (B) STATE 177803 (NOTAL) (C)

BRUSSELS 5030 (D) USUN 2964

1. IN FUTURE CORE GROUP ACTIVITIES WE WILL BE TAKING

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SERIOUS ACCOUNT OF BELGIAN SENSITIVITIES, AS EXPRESSED TO

DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY BRUSSELS. WE FRANKLY THINK BELGIAN CONTENTION THAT US HAS ACTED ARBITRARILY IN CORE GROUP IS OVERDRAWN. MERITS ASIDE, HOWEVER, WE RECOGNIZE THAT CORE GROUP'S EFFECTIVENESS DEPENDS NOT ONLY ON MEMBERS' POOLING THEIR EXPERIENCE IN DEVELOPMENT OF COMMON WEO TACTICAL POSITION, BUT ALSO ON THEIR CONVICTION THAT THROUGH THEIR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION THEY HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMON POLICIES AND THUS HAVE A STAKE IN OUTCOME OF KOREA DEBATE. WE WILL THEREFORE DO OUR BEST TO ENSURE THAT CORE GROUP HAS AMPLE TIME TO REFLECT ON ANY SUGGESTIONS OR TACTICAL INITIATIVES THAT WE MAY CONSIDER PUTTING FORWARD IN MONTHS AHEAD.

2. WE LEAVE TO EMBASSY'S DISCRETION WHETHER AND ON WHAT OCCASION TO PURSUE THE MATTER FURTHER WITH THE BELGIANS.

SHOULD IT BE PURSUED, EMBASSY MAY WISH TO MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS IN ADDITION TO THOSE MADE BY DEPARTMENT EARLIER (REF B):

A. JULY 22 POLITICAL INITIATIVE ORIGINATED IN CORE GROUP CONSULTATIONS. PROPOSAL REFLECTED THRUST OF GENERAL CORE GROUP WISHES, PARTICULARLY IN CASE OF TWO GOVERNMENTS MOST CONCERNED, ROKG AND GOJ. CORE GROUP WAS ALSO BRIEFED ON SUBSTANCE OF SECRETARY'S SPEECH IN ADVANCE AND INFORMED OF ANY SIGNIFICANT LAST-MINUTE CHANGES. IT SEEMED CONSTRUCTIVE TO US, AND WITHIN THE SPIRIT OF THE JOINT UNDERTAKING WHICH CORE GROUP REPRESENTS, THAT MEMBERS SHOULD BE A-KED TO SUPPORT THE INITIATIVE IN CAPITALS WHERE THEY HAD GREATEST INFLUENCE.

B. INEVITABLY SOME CORE GROUP MEMBERS MADE SUGGESTIONS THAT WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE INITIATIVE. IN MAJOR PART THIS WAS BECAUSE NONE OF THE PROPOSALS ATTRACTED CORE GROUP CONSENSUS. ALSO, SOME OF THE IDEAS WERE MORE APPROPRIATE FOR CONSIDERATION AT A CONFERENCE THAN FOR AN INITIATIVE PROPOSING A CONFERENCE.

C. AFTER TIMING OF INITIATIVE WAS DECIDED, SUPPORTIVE ACTION HAD TO BE PROMPT IF IT WAS TO BE EFFECTIVE.
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D. THE US HAS FREQUENTLY ENGAGED IN CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ROK ON CORE GROUP QUESTIONS. WE HOPE BELGIUM WILL APPRECIATE THAT WE HAVE TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE DESIRES OF AN ALLY -- MUCH EXPOSED POLITICALLY AND MILITARILY -- TO DISCUSS WITH US AN ISSUE OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO IT.

E. WE VALUE HIGHLY BELGIUM'S VIEWS ON THE HANDLING
OF KOREA IN THE UN, APPRECIATE THE USEFUL SUGGESTIONS
ITS MISSION HAS MADE, AND LOOK FORWARD TO CLOSE CONSUL-
TATIONS ON UNGA TACTICS IN LIGHT OF A PROBABLE PRO-NORTH
KOREAN MOVE IN THE POST-COLOMBO PERIOD.

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